

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 023349

61

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-07 COA-01

OES-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 INT-05 /069 R

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: FISHERIES-SEIZURE: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR JOSE CARDENAS 5:15 PM 31 JAN 75

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE DELIVERED AT SUBJECT
MEETING:

QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR IS AWARE OF THE POSITION
OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO FISHING
RIGHTS ON THE HIGH SEAS AND THE COMMITMENT OF THIS GOVERN-
MENT TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF ISSUES INVOLVING THE OCEANS
IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY
TO PROTEST THE RECENT SEIZURE OF TUNA VESSELS FLYING THE
UNITED STATES FLAG BY NAVAL UNITS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 023349

ECUADOR IN WATERS OFF THE COAST OF ECUADOR. THE UNITED

STATES REGARDS THESE WATERS AS HIGH SEAS.

QUOTE THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR TO CONFISCATE THE CATCH OF THESE VESSELS IS A MATTER OF PARTICULAR AND IMMEDIATE CONCERN. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOTES THAT THE FISH TAKEN ARE THE PROPERTY OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS. MOREOVER, THE FACT THAT MUCH OF THIS CATCH WAS ORIGINALLY TAKEN IN AREAS OF

THE HIGH SEAS WHICH ECUADOR DOES NOT CLAIM WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR PUBLIC OPINION IN THIS COUNTRY TO UNDERSTAND.

QUOTE IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE OWNERS OF THE VESSELS DETAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR PLAN TO APPEAL THE FINES LEVIED ON THEM AND THE CONFISCATION OF THEIR FISH. IN THE HOPE THAT AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS DISPUTE CAN BE MAINTAINED, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASKS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR GIVE THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THESE APPEALS, AND TO THE CONTENTION OF THE OWNERS THAT MOST OF THE FISH CONFISCATED WERE TAKEN OUTSIDE WATERS CLAIMED BY ECUADOR.

QUOTE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT SINCERE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE ON BOTH SIDES TO NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION TO THIS DIFFICULT ISSUE OVER THE PAST YEARS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WISHES TO REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO A RESOLUTION OF THE FISHERIES PROBLEM THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE OR OTHERWISE. THIS GOVERNMENT ALSO REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE GOAL OF COOPERATIVE AND MUTUALLY PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.
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